

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting management information on a communication network, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining, by a computer-implemented management station on the communication network, a network technology independent high-level health indicator from a managed network element, the network technology independent high-level health indicator being computed from at least one of a technology independent intermediate-level health indicator and a technology independent raw health indicator, the technology independent intermediate-level health indicator and technology independent raw health indicator being computed values derived from technology dependent raw measurements associated with performance of the network taken by the managed network element, and technology dependent computed measurements computed from the technology dependent raw measurements taken by the managed network element; and

if details of the technology independent high-level health indicator are required, obtaining by the computer-implemented management station, the at least one of a technology independent intermediate-level health indicator and a or the technology independent raw health indicator that was used to compute related to the technology independent high-level health indicator from the managed network element.

Claim 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the technology independent high-level health indicator provides an indication of the health of the managed network element, and wherein the at least one of the technology independent intermediate-level health indicator and technology independent raw health indicator provide information about the health of an aspect of the managed network element.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a value of the technology independent high-level health indicator is determined from a plurality of technology independent raw health indicators.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the value of the technology independent high-level health indicator is further determined from values of a plurality of intermediate-level technology independent health indicators.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the technology independent raw health indicators are defined independent of available measurements on the managed network elements, but are computed from technology dependent raw measurements on the managed network elements.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the technology independent intermediate-level and technology independent raw health indicators are maintained by the managed network element and provided on demand to the computer-implemented a management station on the communication network.

Claims 8-13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~defining~~ utilizing technology independent health indicators ~~for collecting~~ to collect health information from network elements of diverse technologies, the method comprising the steps of:

~~defining~~ determining, by a management system, a plurality of technology independent high-level health indicators;

determining, by the management system, a set of technology independent raw health indicators required to compute each of the high-level health indicators; and

for each technology, determining by the management system, a set of at least one of technology dependent computed measurements and technology dependent raw measurements required to compute the set of technology independent raw health indicators; and

instructing, by the management system, network elements utilizing each technology to make the technology dependent raw measurements and compute the technology dependent computed measurements to enable the technology independent raw health indicators and the technology independent high-level health indicators to be computed by the network element or management system.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of determining a set of intermediate-level health indicators required to compute the high-level health indicators from the raw health indicators and computed measurements, and instructing, by the management system, the network elements utilizing each technology, to compute the intermediate-level health indicators from the raw health indicators and computed measurements.

Claims 16-20. (Canceled)